



**County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5602

PATRICIA S. PLOEHN, LCSW
Director

Board of Supervisors

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May 24, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Patricia S. Ploehn, LCSW
Director

**MARCH 13, 2007 BOARD AGENDA ITEM #15 – EDUCATION CONSULTANT REFERRALS
AND BIENNIAL REPORT ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS' PERFORMANCE IN PROVIDING
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR FOSTER CHILDREN**

On March 13, 2007, your Board instructed the Director of Children and Family Services to prepare a report biennially with substantive measurable data on the performance of school districts in providing educational services for foster children and report back within 60 days on:

1. The method the Department of Children and Family Services will use to track data on the referrals received by the Education Consultants, including assessing that school districts:
 - Complete special education assessments and Individualized Education Plans appropriately and in a timely manner;
 - Comply with due process requirements when suspending, expelling and ordering "opportunity transfers";
 - Enroll children in a timely manner;
 - Provide school records in a timely manner;
 - Award partial credit when appropriate;
 - Provide tutoring and academic mentoring; and
2. The format the Director of Children and Family Services will use to prepare a report with substantive measurable data and evaluation provided.

The Department is very excited about the arrival of the Education Consultants into our regional offices and we look forward to building new relationships with the various school districts as we work together to improve the educational outcomes for the children we serve.

The Referral for Education Consultant Services (Attachment A) is completed and submitted by the Children's Social Worker (CSW) or caregiver to the Education Consultant to begin the process. The issues addressed on the referral range from suspension and expulsion, which will always take first priority, to special education assessments, Individual Education Plans (IEP) and Student Study or Success Team (SST), to academic and behavioral problems, and various AB 490 concerns. All of these matters will initially require direct communication with the involved school site and then the district office, if necessary. Therefore, it is very important for the Department to keep the lines of communication open with each district we work with to develop and strengthen relationships to reach a shared understanding on the importance of improving the educational outcomes for the children served by both agencies.

The Education Consultants will work closely with schools when advocating for the needs of our youth. Many individuals at school sites are unfamiliar with AB 490 and the rights it bestows on foster youth. This allows for a training opportunity to educate the school about the new law while resolving the enrollment or school stability issue. By taking this approach we will improve the service to our youth. The same will apply with the school district's knowledge and compliance with special education law and the due process requirements in discipline. The role of the Education Consultant is to advocate for the child's educational needs in a collaborative rather than adversarial manner.

Therefore, on the second page of the referral form, the Education Consultant will rate the school's knowledge and compliance on special education law, discipline due process requirements and AB 490. Once the issues on the referral have been resolved, the Education Consultants will turn both pages of the referral form into the program manager. The ratings will be compiled utilizing an Excel Spreadsheet format to prepare a report with substantive, measurable data. Should the data evaluation indicate that a particular school or district is consistently deficient in any of the three target areas, appropriate action will be initiated and the need for in-service training will be discussed with the district.

If you have questions, please call me or your staff may contact Armand Montiel, Manager, Board Relations Section at (213) 351-5530.

PSP:AC:JH

PA:pa

c: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Audit Committee

Attachment A

Referral for Education Consultant Services

Referral for Education Consultant Services

Office Name _____ Date _____

CSW Name _____ Phone _____

Student's Name _____ DOB _____

Mother's Name _____ Case/ State Number _____

Holder of Ed. Rights Name _____ Phone _____

Caregiver's Name _____ Phone _____

School of Attendance _____ Phone _____

If child is in out-of-home care, please provide the signed Parental Consent and Authorization for Medical Care and Release of Health and Education Records (DCFS 179).

Assistance required with (Please check):

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Enrollment | <input type="checkbox"/> School of Origin | <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer of Records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academic Problems | <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral Problems | <input type="checkbox"/> AB3632 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suspension | <input type="checkbox"/> Expulsion | <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunity Transfer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance | <input type="checkbox"/> Truancy | <input type="checkbox"/> Remedial Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Center Referral | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Study or Success Team (SST) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education Assessment | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Education Plan (IEP) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California High School Exit Exam | <input type="checkbox"/> Holder of Education Rights | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in Multi- Disciplinary Group Decision Making Process (TDM) | | |

Other Concerns, Questions and/or Comments _____

Please return completed form to, _____, Educational Consultant on the
Consultant's Name

_____ floor, desk (Number) . If you have any questions or concerns the consultant can be reached at:

(Phone numbers)

(E-mail address)

**Services Provided by Educational Consultant
(This section to be completed by Educational Consultant)**

Date Opened _____

Date Closed _____

Consultant's Name _____

Phone _____

Tracking number _____

School Name _____

Phone _____

School District _____

School Representative's Name _____

Issue Addressed _____

Actions taken _____

Resolution _____

School's Involvement was at: ☐ School Site ☐ District Level

Knowledge & compliance with:

Special Education Law: ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Needs Improvement

Due Process Requirements in Discipline: ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Needs Improvement

AB 490: ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Needs Improvement

As a result of working with the school/district, a working relationship has developed to improve future communication: ☐ Yes ☐ Somewhat ☐ No

Total Amount of Time Invested _____